

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 SY-05 /101 W

-----023978 151722Z /50

R 141115Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 67

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1712

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VM, SN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON HIJACKED SHIP

REF: SINGAPORE 1626 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE 34 VIETNAMESE WHO ARRIVED SINGAPORE APRIL 9 ON THE HIJACKED VIETNAMESE FREIGHTER VAM-CO 24 ARE STILL ABOARD SHIP, ANCHORED IN SINGAPORE WATERS WHILE GOS SEEKS TO DETERMINE WHAT TO DO WITH THEM.

2. STRAITS TIMES REPORTED ON APRIL 14 THAT 13 OF THE 34 HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WISH TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. OF REMAINDER, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER, 18 HAVE APPLIED TO GO TO AUSTRALIA AND THREE TO FRANCE. GOS HAS ADOPTED "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE WHILE AWAITING WORD AS TO WHETHER COUNTRIES OF CHOICE WILL ACCEPT THEM. ARTICLE NOTED ONE REPORT THAT FRANCH HAD ALREADY TURNED
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DOWN ONE OF THE THREE WISHING TO GO TO FRANCE AND ACCEPTED OTHER TWO. MAJOR PROBLEM, ARTICLE SAID, CONCERNED THE FOUR CREW MEMBERS WHO HAD HIJACKED THE VESSEL, WITH COUNTRIES OF CHOICE RELUCTANT TO TAKE PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE COMMITTED CRIME. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. KNOWLEDGEABLE NEWSMAN WHO HAS BEEN

FOLLOWING INCIDENT CLOSELY TELLS US STRAITS TIMES STORY INACCURATE IN NUMBER OF RESPECTS. NUMBER WISHING TO RETURN TO VIETNAM ONCE TOTALED 13, HE SAID, BUT SEVERAL ARE WAVERING AND TOTAL NOW AROUND 10 TO 11. ALL OF THE OTHERS WISH TO GO TO AUSTRALIA, HE EMPHASIZED, AND NONE HAVE APPLIED TO FRANCE. HE CONFIRMED PRESS STORY THAT STICKING POINT WAS THE FOUR HIJACKERS, WITH GOS HOPING AUSTRALIANS WILL RESOLVE PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH THEM BY TAKING THEM WHILE AUSTRALIANS DOUBTFUL ABOUT TAKING PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE COMMITTED CRIMINAL ACTS.

4. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO FINDING ONWARD HAVENS FOR THOSE VIETNAMESE UNWILLING TO RETURN HOME, GOS HAS PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH VESSEL ITSELF. WE NOTE THAT SINGAPOREANS HAVE REFRAINED FROM ANNOUNCING THAT THEY HAVE SEIZED VESSEL OR THAT IT IS UNDER THEIR CONTROL. THIS PRESUMABLY WILL PROVIDE SOME FLEXIBILITY WHEN THEY DECIDE TO DISPOSE OF IT.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES, SHIPS, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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